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TOWN OF ABINGDON

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2007 – 7:30 P.M.

COUNCIL CHAMBERS - MUNICIPAL BUILDING

A regular meeting of the Abingdon Town Council was held on Monday, September 4, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. in the Council chambers of the Municipal Building.

A. ROLL CALL

Members of Council Present: Mayor Lois H. Humphreys

Mr. Robert M. Howard, Vice Mayor

Dr. French H. Moore, Jr.

Mrs. Cathy Lowe

Mr. Edward B. Morgan, Absent

Administrative Staff: Gregory W. Kelly, Town Manager

Cecile M. Rosenbaum, Town Clerk

Mark Godbey, Town Treasurer/Dir. Of Finance

Myra Cook, Director of Tourism

John Dew, Director of Public Services/Construction

Jim Smith, Director of Wastewater Operations/Town

Engineer

Visitors: L.B. Atkins, Gary Kimbrell, Dick Pippin, Emmitt Yeary, Maj. Lee Saunders, Edward Cozart,

Rick Humphreys, Joella Barbour, Steve Cannon, Debra McCowan, Justin Harmon, Quinn Craughwell, Sam Kiser

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE –

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Major Lee Sanders.

Mayor Humphreys welcomed everyone in attendance and recognized

Mr. Dick Pippin newly appointed director of the Abingdon Senior Center.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- August 6, 2007 Work Session
- August 6, 2007 Regular Meeting

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On Motion of Mrs. Lowe, seconded by Mr. Howard, the Council approved the minutes of the August 6th , 2007

work session and the minutes of the August 6, 2007 regular meeting as presented.

The roll call vote was:

Mrs. Lowe Aye

Mr. Morgan Abstain

Dr. Moore Aye

Mr. Howard Aye

Mayor Humphreys Aye

The motion carried.

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#### D. SPECIAL CITIZEN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

1. Resolution in recognition of Edith Hatcher as a citizen of the Town of Abingdon, Virginia for ninety-five (95) years.

Mayor Humphreys presented the following Resolution to Mrs. Edith Hatcher:

## RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Edith Mae Maiden was born on Valley Street in the Town of Abingdon, Virginia on May 1, 1912 to Warren Aston Maiden and Susie Lucas Maiden; and

WHEREAS, Edith Mae Maiden graduated from Virginia Intermont College in Bristol, Virginia in 1932; and

WHEREAS, Edith Mae Maiden married Edgar C. Hatcher on April 16, 1939 and they raised three children, Doris Hatcher Tyler, William Aston Hatcher and Edgar C. Hatcher, Jr.; and

WHEREAS, Edith M. Hatcher worked for her father in his drugstore, West End Pharmacy, which closed in the 1960's; and

WHEREAS, Edith M. Hatcher was employed at Washington County Bank for thirty-two (32) years; and

WHEREAS, Edith M. Hatcher has been an active member of Abingdon United Methodist Church all of her life and member of the Choir for seventy-nine years (79); and

WHEREAS, Edith M. Hatcher has been an active member of the community working with organizations such as the American Cancer Society, the Parent/Teacher Association, the Abingdon High School Band Boosters and the Washington County Home Demonstration Club; and

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WHEREAS, Edith M. Hatcher enjoys cooking, knitting, gardening and is known as an excellent bridge player; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Council of the Town of Abingdon does hereby recognize Edith Hatcher as a lifelong resident of the Town for all of her ninety-five (95) years and does further applaud and commend her loyalty and love for her hometown community.

Dated this 4th day of September, 2007

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E. SPECIAL EMPLOYEE ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

1. Greg Kelly, Town Manager, presented Mark W. Godbey, Town Treasurer/Director of Finance, with a plaque in recognition of his fifteen (15) years of service to the Town of Abingdon, Virginia.
2. Recognition of Tony Sullivan, Chief of Police, for Five Years of Service to the Town of Abingdon Police Department. Mr. Sullivan was not able to be present at the meeting.
3. Recognition of Elizabeth Minnick, GIS Coordinator, for Five (5) Years of Service to the Town of Abingdon Public Works Department. Ms. Minnick was not able to attend the meeting.

F. PETITIONS AND PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. Public Hearing - Farmer's Warehouse, Inc., Edward Cozart – Application to Repeal, Amend and Reenact Article 13, Section 13-2, Special Uses within the M-1 Limited Industrial Zone.

Mayor Humphreys opened the public hearing and asked if any citizens present wished to speak to the matter. With no response, Mayor Humphreys closed the public hearing and inquired of the Council members their intentions with this issue. Mrs. Lowe informed the Council that this request had been approved at the Planning Commission level and referred to the Town Council for approval.

On motion of Mrs. Lowe, seconded by Mr. Morgan, the application to repeal, amend, and reenact Article 13, Section 13-2, Special Uses within the M-1 Limited Industrial Zone was approved.

The roll call vote was:

Mrs. Lowe Aye

Mr. Morgan Aye

Dr. Moore Aye

Mr. Howard Aye

Mayor Humphreys Aye

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The motion carried.

On motion Mr. Morgan, seconded by Dr. Moore, the application to repeal, amend, and reenact Article 13, Section 13-2, Special Uses within the M-1 Limited Industrial Zone was approved on first reading dispensing with the need for a second reading of the amendment. Mr. Morgan noted that this had been back and forth to the Planning Commission and the Council a couple of times already, and that further delay in a second reading would create an undue hardship on the applicants.

The roll call vote was:

Mrs. Lowe Aye

Mr. Morgan Aye

Dr. Moore Aye

Mr. Howard Aye

Mayor Humphreys Aye

The motion carried.

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2. Public Hearing - Repeal, Amend and Reenact Article 21, Section 21-6-6, Section 21-16, and Section 21-19C1 of the Sign Ordinance.

Mayor Humphreys opened the public hearing and asked if any citizens present wished to speak to the matter. With no response, Mayor Humphreys closed the public hearing and inquired of the Council members their intentions with this issue. Mrs. Lowe informed the Council that this is request had been approved at the Planning Commission level and referred to the Town Council for approval.

On motion of Mrs. Lowe, seconded by Dr. Moore, it was approved to Repeal, Amend and Reenact Article 21, Section 21-6-6, Section 21-16, and Section 21-19C1 of the Sign Ordinance.

The roll call vote was:

Mrs. Lowe Aye

Mr. Morgan Aye

Dr. Moore Aye

Mr. Howard Aye

Mayor Humphreys Aye

The motion carried.

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On motion of Mr. Morgan, seconded by Mrs. Lowe, the Repeal, Amendment and Reenactment of



Article 21, Section 21-6-6, Section 21-16, and Section 21-19C1 of the Sign Ordinance was

approved on first reading dispensing with the second reading of the ordinance. Mr. Morgan noted this amendment

had been in the works for quite a while and several sign applications were

pending and that further delay would create an undue hardship on pending applicants.

The roll call vote was:

Mrs. Lowe Aye

Mr. Morgan Aye

Dr. Moore Aye

Mr. Howard Aye

Mayor Humphreys Aye

The motion carried.

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3. Public Hearing – Repeal, Amend and Reenact Article 18-9-7 of the Entrance Corridor Overlay District.

Mayor Humphreys opened the public hearing and asked if any citizens present wished to speak

to the matter. With no response, Mayor Humphreys closed the public hearing and inquired of the

Council members their intentions with this issue. Mr. Kelly informed the Council that this amendment was

presented in conjunction with the previous sign ordinance amendment

and commented that this request had been approved at the Planning Commission

level and referred to the Town Council for approval.

On motion of Mr. Morgan, seconded by Mr. Howard, the Council approved the Repeal, Amendment and Reenactment of Article 18-9-7 of the Entrance Corridor Overlay District and further resolved that the this Ordinance would be approved on first reading eliminating the need for a second reading. Mr. Morgan again noted that this amendment had been in the works for quite a while and several sign applications were pending and that further delay would create an undue hardship on pending applicants.

The roll call vote was:

Mrs. Lowe Aye

Mr. Morgan Aye

Dr. Moore Aye

Mr. Howard Aye

Mayor Humphreys Aye

The motion carried.

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4. Public Hearing – Request for Vacation of an unopened

portion of Hickman Street between Highland Street and Madison Street.

Mayor Humphreys opened the public hearing and asked if any citizens present wished to speak to the matter. With no response, Mayor Humphreys closed the public hearing and inquired of the Council members their intentions with this issue.

On motion of Mr. Morgan, seconded by Dr. Moore, the Council appointed Town citizens Al Bradley, Dan Mathews, and Monty Vernon to serve on the Panel of Viewers to review the proposed request for street vacation and asked that they report back to the Council at their regular October meeting.

The roll call vote was:

Mrs. Lowe Aye

Mr. Morgan Aye

Dr. Moore Aye

Mr. Howard Aye

Mayor Humphreys Aye

The motion carried.

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G. CONSIDERATION OF ANY BIDS

1. Consideration of award of bid for CY Trash/Brush Loader Crane Truck.

On motion of Dr. Moore, seconded by Mr. Howard, Mid State Equipment Company, Inc.

was awarded the bid for the purchase of the International Truck and Pac-Mac Loader at a price of \$95,885.00.

The roll call vote was:

Mrs. Lowe Aye

Mr. Morgan Aye

Dr. Moore Aye

Mr. Howard Aye

Mayor Humphreys Aye

The motion carried.

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## H. REPORTS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

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1. Appointment of a panel of viewers to consider the vacation of an unopened portion of Hickman Street between Highland Street and Madison Street.

This item was acted on by Council earlier in the meeting during the public hearing for Agenda Item F4. No other action was taken.

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2. Request from William King Regional Arts Center regarding campus expansion.

Mr. Kelly explained to Council that he had spoken with Mrs. White, Director of William King Regional Arts Center and board member, Byrum Geisler and advised that he and two (2) appointed council members would like to meet to further discuss the campus expansion project.

On motion of Mr. Howard, seconded by Dr. Moore, Council members Ed Morgan and Cathy Lowe were appointed to meet with Mr. Kelly, Town Manager and Betsy White, Director of William King Regional Arts Center to discuss the campus expansion project.

The roll call vote was:

Mrs. Lowe Aye

Mr. Morgan Aye

Dr. Moore Aye

Mr. Howard Aye

Mayor Humphreys Aye

The motion carried.

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### 3. Presentation to Council of Veterans Memorial Park Master Plan.

Mr. Emmitt Yeary appeared before the Council members to show the landscape architectural design for Veteran's Memorial Park. Quinn Craughwell, of Graham Landscape Architecture briefly explained the different areas that make up the Plan and how it would enhance the entire park area.

By consensus, the Council members asked Mr. Yeary to have his Plan reviewed by the members of the Tree Commission and the Recreation Advisory Commission and report back to the Council members at their October meeting.

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4. Authorization of the Town Manager to enter into a contract with Thompson and Litton regarding the Virginia Creeper Trail Improvement Project.

On motion of Dr. Moore, seconded by Mr. Morgan, it was resolved to authorize the Town Manager

to enter into a contract with Thompson and Litton for the improvement project to the Virginia Creeper Trail.

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The roll call vote was:

Mrs. Lowe Aye

Mr. Morgan Aye

Dr. Moore Aye

Mr. Howard Aye

Mayor Humphreys Aye

The motion carried.

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5. Consideration of request from Barter Theatre regarding participation in and support of the National Endowment for the Art's Big Read Program.

Brittany Clayman of Barter Theatre appeared before the council members and provided information about the Big Read Program and asked that the Council members support this project.

On motion of Mr. Morgan, seconded by Dr. Moore, the Council  
authorized a \$1,000 donation in support of the Big Read Program.

The roll call vote was:

Mrs. Lowe Aye

Mr. Morgan Aye

Dr. Moore Aye

Mr. Howard Aye

Mayor Humphreys Aye

The motion carried.

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6. Authorization of Town Manager to negotiate a contract with
Hill Studios on the preliminary architectural report of ElderSpirit, Too.

On motion of Mr. Morgan, seconded by Mr. Howard, the Council authorized Town Manager,
Greg Kelly, to negotiate a contract with Hill Studios for the preliminary architectural report of Elder
Spirit, Too.

The roll call vote was:

Mrs. Lowe Aye

Mr. Morgan Aye

Dr. Moore Aye

Mr. Howard Aye

Mayor Humphreys Aye

The motion carried.

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I. PASSAGE OF RESOLUTION – NONE

J. FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES

Each of the ordinances listed on the Council agenda were approved on first reading during the public hearing section of the Agenda earlier in the meeting. No further action was taken by Council.

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K. SECOND READING OF ORDINANCES – None

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L. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS AND COMMUNICATIONS

1. Appointments –

- Industrial Development Authority appointment (1)

On motion of Mr. Morgan, seconded by Dr. Moore, the Council postponed the appointment to the Industrial Development Authority until the regular October meeting.

The roll call vote was:

Mrs. Lowe Aye

Mr. Morgan Aye

Dr. Moore Aye

Mr. Howard Aye

Mayor Humphreys Aye

The motion carried.

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- Tree Commission (1)

On motion of Dr. Moore, seconded by Mr. Howard, Larry Browning was appointed to serve a second term on the Tree Commission and this term will expire on September 11, 2010.

The roll call vote was:

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Mrs. Lowe Aye

Mr. Morgan Aye

Dr. Moore Aye

Mr. Howard Aye

Mayor Humphreys Aye

The motion carried.

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M. OLD BUSINESS

N. COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

- At this time, Mayor Humphreys recognized Myra Cook, Director of Tourism, who reported that the Virginia Highlands Festival was voted one of the top 100 events in the Nation.

Ms. Cook also reported on the dates for the upcoming Overmountain Victory Trail Celebration

and the date for the Harvest Festival event featuring Charlie Allen and Blue Highway.

- Rick Humphreys, member of the Dunn's Meadow Steering Committee, appeared before the Council members to report on the Committee findings to date. He also advised Council of the need for a master plan for the property as well as restoration efforts and asked their consideration of funding for this project. Dr. Moore commented on the committee findings and in support of the allocation for the project.

On motion of Dr. Moore, seconded by Mr. Morgan, the Council approved a \$25,000 allocation to be used for the Dunn's Meadow restoration project.

The roll call vote was:

Mrs. Lowe Aye

Mr. Morgan Aye

Dr. Moore Aye

Mr. Howard Aye

Mayor Humphreys Aye

The motion carried.

- Mr. Humphreys reported to the Council members on the upcoming Overmountain Victory Trail Celebration.

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- Steven Cannon of People, Inc. reported to the Council on the indoor plumbing projects currently ongoing in Washington County, Virginia.
- Gary Kimbrell reported to the Council members that the Hometown Merchants Association has turned over their remaining funds to the Abingdon, Virginia Main Street project.
- Greg Kelly, Town Manager, asked the Council to authorize him to negotiate an amendment to the Town's contract with Hill Studios for the development of a Master Plan for the Dunn's Meadow Project.

On motion of Mr. Howard, seconded by Mr. Morgan, the Council authorized Greg Kelly, Town Manager, to negotiate the Town's current contract with Hill Studios to include the development of a Master Plan for the Dunn's Meadow project for a maximum of \$25,000.

The roll call vote was:

Mrs. Lowe Aye

Mr. Morgan Aye

Dr. Moore Aye

Mr. Howard Aye

Mayor Humphreys Aye

The motion carried.

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#### O. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Council, the meeting was adjourned.

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Lois H. Humphreys, Mayor

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Cecile M. Rosenbaum, Clerk